Remarks

An amended set of claims is submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependencies and to better conform to U.S. practice.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Wilusz, Jr. Attorney for Applicants Reg. No. 52,370

Novartis Corporate Intellectual Property One Health Plaza, Building 104 East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080 (862) 778-7960

Date: 21 March 2006

- 3 -